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1. The regular monthly meeting of district and state leaders of the Brandenburg SED, originally scheduled for 13 February, took place on 20 February in the small Marble Hall of the New Palace in Potsdam. All members of the State Executive Committee with the exception of Wilhelm Pieck were present. As usual, Kreuzinger, a former district leader who is now in the organizational department of the Brandenburg SED, addressed the group on the subject of anticipated political developments in Germany. He began by stating that he had to retract his earlier remark that 1948 would be the year of decision: the decisions have already been made, and the cause of the working masses has emerged triumphant. "We are in the midst of the world revolution, and the next step will be the dictatorship of the proletariat. The only remaining problem is to find the way best adapted strategically for bringing it into being."
2. Germany, not the Mediterranean area or Asia, is the key point in the world conflict; after she becomes Communistic, the remaining European countries will fall in quick succession. Opponents of the movement are in a hopeless situation. To all persons of any perception it is clear that the United States, the only remaining representative of the bourgeois, capitalistic world, now stands hopelessly isolated in world politics; this would be quite plain if she attempted to resist the current of history by employing any means other than financial.
3. Kreuzinger then proceeded to discuss the Marshall Plan, stating that the mass infiltration of American capital and raw materials into western Europe would undoubtedly improve economic conditions temporarily, but would not preserve the old economic structure. A capitalistic Europe without a capitalistic Germany is virtually impossible, and the Germany which emerges from the present chaos will be a progressive, democratic, Communistic Germany. France and England, the chief powers of western Europe, are not expected to interfere with this wave of the future; the working masses of those countries, who will be the next to achieve their independence, will not brook the forceful suppression of progressive developments in Germany.

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America's only salvation from Communism in Europe and an economic crisis at home is a war, but not an atomic "remote-control" war. She has no foothold, however, from which she can wage a war of mass armies in Europe, as a glance at the map plainly shows. For three years the Baltic Sea has been a Russian lake; the capitulation of Greece should occur by early summer; near-by countries, such as France and Italy in the south and the Scandinavian countries in the north, will maintain a friendly neutrality toward the Soviet Union; and conditions in Turkey and Spain are of such a nature that any political crisis would precipitate

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revolution. The United States would thus be hopelessly outflanked in central Europe in case of war. She can do little to impede the swift and sure advance of Communism in Europe and particularly in Germany, and the Marshall Plan is her last resort.

5. Russia's immediate goal is to win Germany. The question of currency reform will be the deciding factor in developments of the next few weeks. It is impossible for the Allied Control Council to reach any agreement on this subject; neither Russia, which desires that the burden of the reform be assumed by large concerns and moneyed interests, nor America, which intends that the worker be the party to suffer, will yield to the other. If the Marshall Plan is to be effective, America will be forced to carry out an independent currency reform, which will be interpreted by Communist propaganda as another step toward the division of Germany. This will stir nationalistic sentiments in all Germans, even the bourgeois classes, and gain large numbers of supporters for the Volkskongress movement. Kreuzinger stated that it was necessary to enlist the assistance of leading German thinkers for the Volkskongress movement, since one great name would do more to win it followers than any number of committees. He assigned the district leaders the task of converting outstanding intellectuals who reside within their districts. The means used in doing this are of no significance; every man has his price.
6. The reason for this emphasis upon the Volkskongress lies in the fact that it is to become the basis of Russian policy in Germany. The Volkskongress movement will constitute the only real party in the eastern zone, the SED providing the framework. It will probably be called the "German Unity Movement (Deutsche Einheitsbewegung)". From this unity movement a constitutional convention will emerge. This, in turn, will appoint a German government, which, as an expression of the people's will, is assured of recognition by the people's democracies of the east. Russia will give the government the character of an exile government, retaining the present state governments as administrative units. She will immediately withdraw her occupation troops, provided, of course, that military exigencies do not make such a move impractical; in any case, the character of the occupation will be altered through the conclusion of a peace treaty. The peace treaty will be followed by a series of political and economic agreements with the eastern European democracies. No difficulties are expected from the Germans on the question of the eastern boundary; most will be glad to sacrifice the territory now administered by Poland in exchange for independence and unity.
7. America will be able to do nothing beyond making hysterical accusations, and will realize to an increasing extent the inadvisability of a war against Russia. Within a very short time Russia will make an impressive showing of her military might. The question of the atom bomb can be safely ignored; no belligerent power would employ such a weapon for fear of reprisals. England has two alternatives: either a close alliance with Russia or deadly enmity. As her colonies fall away and she becomes dependent upon Russia for markets, it seems likely that she will choose the former. She will produce and export to Europe, the Balkans, North Africa, and Asia what Russia prescribes to her, or she will starve.

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